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The Letter of a Southerner.

Discussion of the negro question has become somewhat tiresome. In one form or another it has been kept up in this country without intermission for a century, and actively and virulently for more than fifty years; yet we give a Southerner an opportunity to discuss the question still again in an adjoining column. Mr. GATES presents no new view, however, but repeats arguments and allegations which are old, very old.

He starts out by assuming that Northern writers on the subject are ignorant of the conditions at the South and the state of mind of the Southern whites. If that is so they have thrown away opportunities to inform themselves as to the matter. No question concerning our social and political relations has been more frequently and more thoroughly discussed by people who know all about it. Every fact and every argument brought forward by Mr. GATES is familiar to all intelligent men at the North, no less than at the South. Besides, many thousands of Northern people visit the South every winter, and the business associations between South and North are all the time growing more

It was inevitable that the sudden and revolutionary step from slavery to freedom of two-fifths or one-third of the population of the South should involve social and industrial disturbance. On the whole, however, the revolution has been effected with wonderfully little friction. The South has risen from complete collapse immediately after the war to great prosperity, and it has been a progress unexampled in the history of the world under similar circumstances.

Cotton production is nearly three times as great as it was in the year of the largest cotton crop under slavery, and in other agricultural productions some time wholly in Japanese hands, the increase has been even greater. The | while the central and northern sections. South in the last generation has built up a vast system of manufacturing, has developed its mines to an enormous extent, and its railway systems now rank that the natives must either migrate or with the best in the Union. Nothing in this suggests industrial disturbance, and to be sown next spring it must be with practically the negro question is an industrial question.

Mr. GATES complains that education for the negro tends to distract him from fitted. That is not a complaint peculiar had been accumulated at Harbin and woman, a wife to gladden the heart of a men, how the South." says Mr. GATES, "protests against is acts the result of which causes the negro to seek elevation above the social plane of his race." The same kind of talk is often heard here at the North concerning laborers who are not black. It is said that they do not "keep their place," that they are not sufficiently submissive, that, as the Episcopal Prayer Book puts it, they are no longer content to do their duty "in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call" them. They assert themselves uncombody else, and combine to prevent their employers from keeping down their

scale of wages. All that is an inevitable result of education, and it is a result seen not merely in a democracy, but also in monarchical and despotic States. Laborers "seek reached. With the men, of course, had elevation above the social plane" to which they had been confined, whether they are negroes or white men. That is human progress, and as time goes on the seeking will be more and more general and more and more earnest and successful. Modern society denies that there is any lower social plane to which any man is confined or any social elevation to which he may not aspire. The South is less troubled by that aspiration and by the determination | road must be devoted to that purpose of its industrial population to get ahead than is the North.

Mr. GATES says the negroes are lazy. Would the great crops, the enormous output of mines and manufactories and the vast railway development have been sible if the great mass of the negroes in the South had not worked industriously? It is questionable if relatively there is any more thriftlessness and any more indisposition to labor among the Southern negroes than there is among Northern whites. It is questionable, too, if the crime attributed to the negroes of the South peculiarly is much more frequent there than it is at the North. How large is the percentage of it among the eight million negroes of the South?

the South established after the war, in while if reenforced it is condemned to whose benefits the negroes participate. perish by starvation. were supported by the whites only, for "hardly a negro was a taxpayer." In the same sense, free schools generally are for the children of parents who do not pay taxes directly; though, in fact, everybody pays taxes indirectly, if not directly. The great mass of the pupils in the schools of New York are not children of parents who pay specific tax bills. The position of Mr. GATES is fallacious.

Mr. GATES says that "the South prefers to retain the negro," but "it wants the negro as a toiler" only. Nearly four million negroes in the United States, of whom nearly nine-tenths are in the South, are now engaged in toil or, as the census defines it, in "gainful occupations." If the South should be deprived

efforts to attract white foreign immigration in which Southern communities are now engaged so earnestly should be successful on any large scale, a part of the negro labor might be dispensed with | country undisputed control of the sea. eventually; but the probability is that if such a change from black to white labor ever takes place extensively there will be more dissatisfaction at the South than there is now.

This leads us to affirm that nowhere in the world is the industrial situation so favorable to the employer as it is now at the South. The greatest trouble with the negro labor there is its insufficiency.

As to discussion of the negro question, why should not everybody everywhere be free to talk about it? This is a country of free speech. Whether that freedom is wisely or unwisely used, it is the birthright of an American, and the South will no more suffer from it than does the North.

Finally, the South is very much better off than it knows. It can afford to be indifferent to criticism. In many respects it is the most fortunate, the most prosperous region on the face of the globe. It can't be injured from outside. It can only injure itself. The habit of troubling yourself about what other people think of you is bad.

Will Starvation Stop the War in the Far East?

It is an axiom of writers upon the art of war that an army moves upon its belly, which is but a figurative way of stating the obvious truth that deprived of food men cannot fight. That, if not expelled by force of arms, the Russian army may be starved out of Manchuria is evident if we can accept as authentic the news telegraphed from St. Petersburg by the correspondent of the Paris Temps, who hitherto has proved to be exceptionally well informed.

The correspondent says that Gen. KUROPATRIN has telegraphed to the Russian War Office that unless the number of trains on the Siberian Railroad is increased considerably it will be impossible to keep the forces under his command supplied with provisions, in which event he would be unable to answer any longer for the course of the campaign. No announcement could be more portentous, for the reason that the carrying capacity of the Siberian Railroad, as regards roadbed, track and rolling stock, has long since been subjected to the utmost strain.

We have before pointed out that the reports wired from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government had decided to place three huge armies in Manchuria, which in the aggregate would comprise not far from a million of men, were on their face absurd. The soldiers could not be fed. Of the three sections of Manchuria, the southern has been for which relatively are less fertile, have been so utterly denuded of food supplies for the use of KUROPATKIN'S army perish from famine; and if the fields are imported seed. So much for the possibility of feeding the Russian troops off the country.

We observe next that all the stores the manual labor for which alone he is which before the outbreak of the war to the South and the negro. "What at other points on the railway running u iversal is the comment" thence to Port Arthur are exhausted, and the Russian soldiers are now dependent on Siberia and European Russia for the sustenance doled out to them by a single track railway from day to day. How is it possible to furnish in this way food enough for a force which, including the garrisons of Vladivostok and Harbin and the troops to guard long lines of communication against Chinese marauders, cannot fall much, if at all, short of three hundred thousand men?

It must be remembered that, accordfortably, think they are as good as any- ing to the testimony of an eyewitness who has lately spent some months in Mukden, the railway was then only capable of delivering on an average a daily reenforcement of four hundred men, although on some occasions the maximum of a thousand had been to go their ammunition, and the food required for their consumption en route. At that time, be it remembered, the force already collected in Manchuria was subsisting off the country or on the stores got together before the war began. From the moment, however, KUBOPATKIN'S army has to rely on provisions forwarded by rail it is manifest that the whole carrying capacity of the and that the reenforcing process must

be suspended. But an accession of at least four hundred men a day would probably be needed merely to compensate for the mortality or sickness due to disease, owing to the shocking lack of sanitary precautions in the Russian camps. If will dwindle steadily. If, on the other hand, the present numbers are kept up, their commander says, according to the correspondent of the Temps, that they cannot be fed unless the daily delivery by rail is increased, which is an impossibility. This, then, is the vicious circle in which circumstances have pent up the force under Gen. KUROPATRIN. Un-Mr. GATES says that the free schools of less reenforced it is doomed to crumble,

> The Japanese, for their part, having command of the sea, can not only draw supplies quickly from their native land. but can buy food anywhere else in quantity and can deliver it with speed and certainty at the front. They could stay at Liaoyang for an indefinite period, so far as the problem of subsistence is concerned. The Russians, on the other hand, seem likely to find it as impossible to remain in Mukden as the French found it to stay in Moscow. An early

retreat is inevitable. It is, in a word, a hopelessly unequal struggle to which Russia was committed by the Grand Ducal coterie when it prevented the fulfilment of the promise to evacuate Manchuria. Unless the Czar's of negro toil its industry would be de- advisers were absolutely certain of streets, where Mr. MARSHALL FIELD has stroyed in chief part. Of course, it does | maintaining maritime ascendency, they not want to get rid of its negroes. If the were guilty of an act of folly when they The accession of houses like these

provoked Japan to war. The issue of the contest seems to have been irrevocably fixed when Admiral Togo by beating the Port Arthur squadron gave his

The Millionaire's Peril.

The Rev. HENRY A. STIMSON writes in the Atlantic Monthly of "The Millionaire's Peril," a danger, whatever it is, few of us would not have the courage to face. Perhaps an exception should be made of that extreme publicity, that constant surveillance, which are the lot of the excessively millioned millionaires. Fortunately, the mere millionaire is too common to attract attention. Once in a while the obituary column reveals an unsuspected plutocrat who has been able to go through life without notoriety. Him we must regard as highly fortunate.

Most of the golden brethren have to pay a penalty for their riches. Most people like to imagine themselves on a moral pedestal whence they can look with superiority upon the class of persons whom Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS comprised somewhat summarily under the title of SOLOMON GUNNYBAGS. If you are not rich, why, necessarily, you are more cultivated, of finer nature, of better heart than those who are. Thus does self-importance smooth its ruffled feathers. Thus does the poor millionaire, much abused as he is, receive a certain sympathy and pity from those who are not exposed to his "peril." Mr. STIMSON looks at him with this pitving gaze:

" After all, the chief danger from wealth is to the possessor. The old word as to the difficulty of the rich man's entering the Kingdom of Heaven still stands. The millionaire is himself the man whose sensibilities are dulled, whose heart is most exposed to corrosion. He is compelled to live in a world of his own, where standards are artificial, ideals are low, restraints are few and feebly applied. conventionalities control, and truth is rarely spoken to his cars. He knows little of the discipline of the man. Who, long compelled in humble walks to go.

Was softened into feeling, soothed and tamed. Consequently, it can seldom be written of him: 'Nor did he change, but kept in lofty place

The wisdom which adversity had bred. How pleasant to shake a warning finger at one's too forehanded brother and to quote poetry at him! We don't understand, however, how restraints are few and feebly applied in a society where conventionalities control. As to "discipline," most millionaires have had plenty of it in their youth and have got rich by their genius for moneymaking. The small class of hereditary millionaires is distinguished, as a whole, for its self-control and its comparative blamelessness of life. The millionaire has a good chance to acquire worldly wisdom: and the truth is spoken to him much more frequently than about him. As to being "compelled to live in a world of his own," we all live in a world of our own; all standards are artificial, and "ideals" are generally pretty well worn off in the attrition of daily life.

Mr. STIMSON visits the sin of the father upon the children:

" It is a daily wonder if his children turn out well They have none of the advantages of ordinary boys and girls in the discipline or even the common intercourse of life, and few of the incentives; they are a class by them elves, courted for their money and dreaded for their influence, as to-day in our schools and colleges; and when the son of a millionaire makes a man of himself, or a daughter t res out to be a gracious. selfen and lovable

The sons of millionaires are not courted at colleges. They come much nearer to being ostracized. The student of moderate means is in deadly fear of being accused of "swiping" (toadving). The rich boy must associate with the rich. His automobile ("bubble," as the speech of some of the collegians hath it) "queers" him. The pitiless democracy of schools and colleges is severe to the rich.

Is the "comment universal" when a millionaire's son or daughter turns out well? There must be a few people in the community who don't spend their time in reading gossip about the rich. As a matter of observation and fact, don't the children of the rich "turn out" as well as the children of the poor? Yes, but everybody likes to find reasons for believing that he is better than his neighbors.

Transformation of Fifth Avenue The midtown section of Fifth avenue has been losing caste as a residence neighborhood ever since its newer and more luxurious hotels began to divert the golden patronage of wealth and fashion from the less modern Broadway hostelries. The Waldorf-Astoria, at Thirty-fourth street, and Sherry's and Delmonico's, at Forty-fourth street, naturally fostered the growth of trade in their vicinity and became important centres from which commerce in luxuries and in personal services progressed rapidly northward and southward. Until quite recently, however, Fifth avenue's business community continued to wear the badge of dependence on the fashionable hotels cresting Murray Hill. reenforcements cease the Russian army It was housed in made-over dwellings. and wore an unmistakable air of subserviency to neighborhood interests.

Within the last two years the avenue may be said to have taken definite rank as a rival of Broadway, of Twentythird street and of Sixth avenue. Of the five great houses of national fame which lent distinction to the shopping section of Broadway at and near Madison Square, two have acquired in that time sites in Fifth avenue. The Gorham Manufacturing Company will presently be established at the southwest corner of Thirty-sixth street, and the Tiffany Company will before long take possession of its new home, at the southeast corner of Thirty-seventh street. These firms join a colony of silversmiths and jewellers that already contains notable nembers. Last week the firm of Messrs. B. ALTMAN & Co. announced their intention to build on the block front between Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth streets, diagonally opposite the Waldorf-Astoria, and with that incoming Fifth avenue will receive its first dry goods department store. A store of the same character and rank will probably soon follow on the west side of the avenue. between Thirtieth and Thirty-first secured a site comprising sixteen lots.

mplies that the Fifth avenue shopping trade has ceased to be a local institution. Not only Murray Hill, but also the entire metropolitan area now contributes toward its prosperity. Emancipated from the residential traditions of the neighborhood, the merchant community is giving expression to its spirit and purposes in a distinctive architecture. The appearance of the avenue is rapidly changing. Most of the new buildings have been erected by wealthy banking corporations and mercantile concerns, instead of by speculators, with the result that the workmanship and taste of architects of merit predominate. As constructions of excessive height are not required, it has been possible to observe the canons of proportion, and some of the new buildings are among the most

beautiful in the town. The shopping section of Fifth avenue now extends from Madison Square to Forty-seventh street, a full mile in length. At its lower end ground has been broken for a costly hostelry on the old Hotel Brunswick site. The Windsor Arcade, at its upper end, is of recent date and of distinctive character. In the intervening distance there is no vacant point where the process of reconstruction has not made some headway. Enough has been done to demonstrate that Fifth avenue will be distinguished among the city's shopping thoroughfares. A monumental public building and many splendid hotels will break the uniformity of commercial constructions, and a roadway unobstructed by street cars will permit freedom of movement to the passing show of carriage traffic.

The invasion of middle Fifth avenue by hotels and shops is, of course, due to one and the same cause—the uptown migration of the fashionable residence population. This migration, though old as the city, has taken on a new phase, which in a large measure explains the extraordinary development of retail trade in the avenue during the last few years. Between 1866 and 1902 the centre of the fashionable world moved from Fourteenth to Fiftieth street. During the whole of that period, however, it remained west of Fifth avenue. In 1902, for the first time, the majority of the people of fashion lived eastward of Fifth avenue. The reason for this eastward turn of fashionable migration forms an interesting but complicated chapter in the history of the town's growth. That migration, however, accounts for the rise of Fifth avenue as a centre of retail trade. It is suggestive to note that the first removal of a business house of the highest rank from one of the old established shopping districts to Fifth avenue was announced in the same year that the centre of the fashionable population passed eastward of the avenue. Meantime, it is a sign of the multiform greatness of New York that the creation of a new trade centre in nowise diminishes the attractiveness and the prosperity of the old.

A Consus Bulletin just issued, presenting and discussing the age statistics of the United States, brings out important facts and makes valuable deductions from them These are the more entitled to serious consideration because the ages of the population of the continental United States were ascertained more accurately in 1900 than in any previous census.

It appears that the median age of the exactly divides the population into halves. 85 wears at the opening of the twen tieth century. In 1800 the median age was determined at 15.97, and since 1820 it has increased on the average by two-thirds of a year each decade. In cities of over 25,000 inhabitants the median age is about three and a half years higher than that in smaller communities and rural districts. It is high in North Atlantic and Western States and low in South Atlantic and South Central States, while in the North Central States it approximates that of the country as a whole. The average age for the whole population in 1900 was slightly higher than the median

age, or 26.2 years. Three-fifths of the population of the Union on this continent were in the "productive age group"-that is, between the ages of 15 and 60. This is a larger percentage of the population than is found in the same group in European countries. The reason for it is explained to be the presence in this country of large numbers of foreign born adults. Among the natives of the United States the showing is very different. Only Holland and the Scandinavian countries have so small a proportion of their population in the "productive age group' as is found in the native white population of

this country. The number of centenarians reported, grossly exaggerated in the returns," according to the Bulletin, is particularly exaggerated among illiterates. Except among persons of advanced years, however, the tendency was toward understatement of age rather than exaggeration. Among the egroes this tendency was strongest, and it was more marked among foreign born than native whites.

A Tribute to a Dead Policeman. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In reading THE SUN of Dec. 15, I. Mrs. John Hoey, widow of automobile some three years ago, was surprised and pleased to learn that the inscription relating to that accident had been newly freshened.

I am deeply grateful for the thoughtfulness of the mounted officers in remembering my husband. and wish to thank them all for their kindness, and especially so Mounted Officer Lynch, who wrote the inscription. Mrs. ELLEN HORY, GLENS PALIA, N. Y., Dec. 17.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I find t your paper of to-day what I have been hoping to see in connection with the reawakening of interest in our mounted policemen. It is a mention of Patrolman John Hoey, whose sad death might be said to mark the advent of the automobile in Cen-

cy was an estimable officer, whose serious but kindly face was well known to the frequenters of the Park drives and bridle paths for years. His untimely end was a cause of real grief to many of us, and I for one would be glad of an op-portunity to contribute toward a more substantial marking of the spot where he was cut down. NEW YORK, Dec. 16. J. W. EDMON

The Nominal and the True Christian The Nominal and the True Christian.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: An advertisement of a widely circulated magazine calls for "Christian young ladies in their subscription department; must be good writers."

Can it be possible that this magazine or any other in this enlightened age is so bigoted as to preclude young Jewish ladies qualified to do the work?

true sense and spirit of the word does not mean one born of Gentile or non-Jewish parents, but one who believes and practices the beautiful leachings of Christ-"Do unto others as you would be done of Christ.—"Do unto others as you would be done by" and "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

I know hundreds of Jewa practising the above grand and good doctrines, and hence better "Chris-tians" than the common and generally accepted definition of this greatly misused word.

"Christiani" What a misused word it is. The

THE SOUTH AND THE NEGRO. is never committed by a negro over 45 years of age. An old negro barber at Little Rock, Ark., remarked to the writer

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: One of the severest afflictions which the South has to endure incident to its mom negro problem grows out of the constant discussion of the issue by persons whose premises are notoriously false, likewise their deductions. The negro question and the Southern people are being discussed with too much frankness and freedom by persons whose only knowledge of either, or both, is gleaned from special despatches from the South detailing crime.

It is fair, then, to assume that the negro and the South will never be understood in their true relation to each other until the Northern mind is brought into physical contact with conditions as they actually

Being a Southerner by birth and rearing, can say truthfully that the Southern people keenly regret that their section and its problems, chief among them being the negro, have so long been misunders and misrepresented in the North. The South has never shunned the light of investigation into its treatment of the negro, but on the contrary it has sought full and

Waiving discussion of the negro in the South before and during the war between the States, I will ask, what is the real condition of the negro in the South? The incontrovertible answer is, just what he has seen fit to make it. From slavery, the most humane that ever existed at any stage of the world's progress, the negro was turned loose to work out his own material salvation under the light of freedom, whose garish rays were tempered by every aid that his former masters could give him. In his efforts toward material emancipation he has been granted every opportunity by the whites with whom he abides. No morally and mentally inferior race has ever received such uniform consideration and cooperation in its desire for uplifting. The farm, the workshop, the railroad, the steamboat and every avenue of physical employment were opened to him after his emancipation and remain open to him to this good hour. And that his pay has been and is in most instances sufficiently remunerative is demonstrated by the fact that thousands of the more frugal and thrifty among them own their farms and homes.

What was done for the negro along educational lines?

After the war, when the South began to establish free schools, hardly a taxpayer was a negro, but the children of the latter were given schools the same as the whites. Who paid for these schools, and who pays for them to-day? The white people of the Southern States. Since the negro was emancipated the Southern States have expended over \$100,000,000 for the education of the negro. Besides, Northern philanthropists have established colleges in a number of Southern States for the negro's etter education. What has education done for the negro-

mean toward the cultivation of his mind?

Has it made him a better citizen or has it uplifted him morally? A study of the socalled educated negro in the South will afford the best answer. At the risk of being accused of prejudice I will say that education, as we of the South see it manifested in the life of the negro, has not added either to his peace of mind or moral welfare. Understand, I make no reference to the few negroes who have been turned out by Booker T. Washington's industrial school at Tusliegee, Ala. Statistics will show and observation will confirm that the smattering of education which the thousands of the younger negroes have received within the past fifteen or twenty years in the South has retarded rather than aided their material advancement. This doubtless suggests a mystifying anomaly; but it aggregate population, that is, the age which is true. The rule is that the negro who gets a little learning, which Pope has declared to be a dangerous thing, imagines himself unfitted for manual toil. "Education is to accomplish my emancipation from physical labor," is his reasoning, and the majority of them eschew labor unless it be of a kind that is light and offering the greatest opportunities for shirking and rest. Go South to-day and investigate every line of manual activity in which the negro is represented, and you will find that those thus employed are without any education, or if they have any at all, it is limited to scant ability to read simple lettering. Those who have received a smattering of education are either dabbling in something unworthy their strength or loafing, being supported the while by the industrious male and female members of the family, who in most instances represent what is left of the old time darky.

In my home, Memphis, Tenn., there are at least fifteen thousand or more ablebedied adult young negro men and women dependent upon the thrift of their industrious "daddies" or "mammies" for support. This condition, of course, breeds the degrading vices into which the idle negro sinks to crime and ruin. Work is offered them, but they must not engage in manual toil. They are educated and want something "tony," as they term it. It is true that some of the educated among them aspire to posts as school teachers, but the percentage is totally out of proportion to those who refuse to seek any avenue of

employment. Morally the negro has not up to this time been benefited by education. When a negro gets a smattering of education he begins to imitate the white people, and almost invariably he imitates their vices and not their virtues. A negro has an exaggerated notion of dress to gratify, for which he will sacrifice everything he possesses What education may eventually do for the negro is too far in the future for discussion here; besides, I purpose to present facts and not theories.

The South has no dread of negro social equality, per se. It knows as well as the North that such a condition is a racial impossibility; but what the South protests against is acts, the result of which causes the negro to seck elevation above the social plane of his race. The South is amply able to take oure of the social equality proposition, but as it is working out the negro problem it respectfully insists that injurious examples of social commingling of the races be avoided. Why? Not because the South is afraid the negroes will push social equality upon them, but because such examples invariably result in great harm to the negro by instilling false ideas into his head. While the negro is the sufferer by the example, it is too often accomplished to the distaste of the white man, and not infrequently to his demoralization.

The moral and the constitutional right of man of any color to choose his own asso nates is not questioned by the South; but when a white man of standing in any section of the country seeks to elevate the negro to his own social plane, he sets an example the effect of which amounts to courge in the South. Theories are unavailing on this point. History speaks for

tself. Concerning that great crime committee nost frequently in the South for which so many negroes have been lynched. I desire to say that before the war such a orime was unknown. Even to this day the crime

one day that it was his proud boast that no negro over 45 had ever been lynched in the South for assaulting a white woman. What has produced this wonderful change in the negro is largely the vicious political agita-

tion, which puts notions in his head impos-

sible of realization.

The South wants the negro as a toiler. It needs him, but is not absolutely at the meroy of his labor. The prosperity of Texas shows conclusively that the more agricultural States of the South can get along without him; yet the South prefers to retain the negro, as that section is best suited to him, and the white people know the negro better than the people of any other section of the country. If let alone the negro will do well in the South, as tens of thousands are doing; but if kept in a state of vicious agitation by political demagogues, his future will be written in letters of great evil. If the Indians in the West

were disturbed in their relations to their superiors as are the negroes of the South, the result would be disastrous. WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. ROBERT M. GATES.

Mr. Depew and the Republicans. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As a Republican in touch with prominent Republicans in this Congress district and throughout he State, I assert and insist that the general feeling is in favor of Senator Depew's

What right have any seventeen individuals to speak for the entire body of Republican voters of the State before those voters have een consulted? Have the people no rights? When did we delegate to any set of men the ight to ignore our preferences? It has always been held as a cardinal prin-

we elect to office is entitled to a second term, inless he has failed to do his duty during his first term. When and in what manner has Senator Depew during his service as Senator, or in other capacity in our party, failed to do his full duty toward his party and his State?

By what hocus pocus of reasoning can a secretly called meeting of a few men in a New York hotel be called "an expression of the feeling in the State"? It is no such thing. The State is speaking through newspaper after newspaper, but in a very different key from that struck at the Thursday, New York hotel, one sided, specially arranged conference. Day after day the Buffalo Evening News publishes column after column of verbatim statements in favor of Depew by prominent Republicans all over western New York.

Have those men no rights in the premises?

Many of them are business men and know what it means to the business interests of our State to have a business man like Mr. Depew one of the guardians of those interests in Washington

I repeat, have the people no rights? I think they have, and I also think the result of the election on Nov. 8 proved that the people count for more than some professional politicians seem to realize.

The Porto Rican Problem.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Predicar desirt) would be a suitable Spanish sentence to bestow upon the seemingly uscless propaganda to relieve Porto Rico of the unbearable excess of population within her limited area—which is in itself the main cause of her economic stringency— by getting from the overgrowded ranks of her unnplayed tollers a few thousand laborers for the

anama Canal construction.

Never, indeed, could your felicitous and pathetic deapition of Porto Rico as the "forgotten island e more properly applied than in the present case. f the negotiations of Secretary Taft at Jamaica s transmitted to the press, bear the stamp of the truth. He has been reported as having reached an agreement with the British authorities of that essession in order to get their cooperation in the a vowed official purpose of having \$,000 Jamaican negroes sent at once to the Isthmus.

In the light of that unexpected move on the part of the Secretary of War we find ours was con-fronted with an inexplicable dilemms. Either conlitions at Panama, such as the unbealthy, insidious climate, do not permit the wholesale sacrifice of a people dwelling under the American flag, or the people dweller duter the Alman read has been managers of the canal profess to believe that the Porto Rican is not a cood laborer and that physically he is unit for the task. If the former state of affairs prevails on the Isthmus, I dare to say that the magnitude of the probable ravares by pernicious fevers among the immune islanders working the gleantic cut would fade into oblivion compared to the havoe played by an min among the island breadwinners and as a sequel of the clogged condition of her coffee production. If the latter condition of ner collect production. It is latter conclusion obtains in the mind of the canci man agement, it should speak clearly and unmistakably in order that the optimistic Porto Rican may wake up to the cruel reality from the lund dream of a long night of viril.

The truth is that the poor islanders have been figuratively ousted unceremoniously from the pleasant abode of their eastles in the air, and that maybe, their cherished hope about having a share in the digging of the canal has fled away to rest among so many shattered hopes of the sad past.

It has been wisely said that the United Statesor rather New York, as the city alone can swal-low up the whole production of the Porto Ricar coffee industry—is the natural market for the Island berry. But as this centre of consumption cannot be permanently won without effective advertiseent, and it takes time and money to reach the public tastes and inclinations, it appears on the face of circumstances that the best suggestion, as a provisory remedy, would be to relieve the congestion of the island inhabitants.

The Porto Rican problem can be solved only by practising the Golden Rule, which is the rule of conscience dictated by the existing appalling con-ditions. Let us follow the lead of Gov. Winthrop. who, in following President Roosevelt's inspiration, has established a precedent worthy of emulation I refer to the moral peace, through impartial elec-NEW YORK, Dec. 17. D. COL D. COLLAZO.

The Immaculate Conception and the Episco-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. Before replying to Mr. Flavel Mines of Philadelphia I wish to explain that I have received a calendar of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin for the month of December. There is in this calendar no mention of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A letter which accompanied it says that no celebration of the feast took place in that church. The letter which appeared in THE SUN of Dec. 4 and started this discussion was without a basis of fact

Mr. Flavel Mines says that I do not know what I am talking about, and then goes on to prove that my assertion that there is no mention of a feast of the conception or Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the calendar of the Protestant Episcopal Church is true. I would here remind him that conception and Immaculate Conception are two very different things. He tries further to prove that I do not know what

am talking about by telling me that though the feast is not mentioned in the calendar of the Pro-estant Episcopal Church it is mentioned in the calendars of both the English and Scotch Churches.

What then! I never said it was not.

I have searched the prayer book through and can find no mention of those "octaves." The mere saying of a preface for a certain day and for seven days after does not make an octave.

Concerning Article XXXI., I go by what the artiele says and by the construction put upon it by Protestants generally, and not by what may be wrested from it by "popular notion" or by any other means. That there is, or ever has been, a "popular notion" among Catholics that the Sacrifice of Calvary was in satisfaction for original sin only and that the daily mass was necessary to supplement the insufficiency of the sacrifice of the Cross is merely an impudent assumption. What kind of a theologian must a man be who calls a "popular notion" a "doctrine"?

"popular notion" a "doctrine";
Article XXXI. says "sacrifices of masses"; note
the plural and also the absence of capitals. Roman
Catholics always use capitals in writing of the
Sacrifice of the Mass, and therefore the absence of them proves conclusively that what is meant is not the Sacrifice of the Mass as underst

A Polite Georgia Newspaper. From the Marietta Journal.
Mr. Will Langston, who stole Mr. A. H. Tally's horse and buggy and sold it, was tried and plead guilty in Cobb Superior Court last week, and was iven eleven years' sentence in two cases.

Mr. Max Mix Married. From the Staunton Dispatch.
Mr. Max Mix of this city and Miss Edwards of harlottesville went to Washington Sunday, and

yesterday were married in the capital city.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Dates of the Annual Muster and Inspection by Army Officers.

ALBANY, Dec. 17 .- The annual muster and inspection by United States army officers and officers of the State militia of the National Guard organizations of Brooklyn and Manhattan will take place on the following dates: Seventy-first Begiment, Jan. 8 and 4: Sixty-ninth Regiment, Jan. 16 and 17; Eighth Regiment, Jan. 24 and 25; Ninth Regiment, Jan. 30 and 51; Seventh Regiment, Feb. 6 and 7; Twelfth Regiment, Feb. 14 and 15; Fourteenth Regi-ment, Feb. 20 and 21; Twenty-second Regiment, Feb. 20 and 21; Twenty-second Regiment, engineers, Feb. 27 and 28; Twenty-third Regiment, March 15 and 16; Forty-seventh Regiment, March 6 and 7; Seventeenth Separate Company, Flushing, Jan. 4.
Lieut.-Col. J. Wray Cleveland, Inspector of the National Guard, is detailed as mustering and inspecting officer, and Lieut.-Col. George Albert Wingate, Assistant Adjutant General, is detailed to assist him. The Second Company, Signal Corps, Brooklyn, will have annual muster and inspection on March 6, and the First Company, Signal Corps, New York city, on March 9.
The annual muster and inspection of Squadron A, New York city, will occur on April 8, and of Troop C, Brooklyn, on April 6.
Other dates of annual muster and inspection are announced as follows: First Battery, New York city, Feb. 11; Second Battery, New York city, Feb. 21; Third Battery, Brooklyn, Feb. 14; Thirteenth Regiment, heavy artillery, Brooklyn, Feb. 27.

MORE BARGE CANAL BIDS.

Those on Contracts Nos. 5 and 6 Are Below the Engineer's Estimates.

ALBANY, Dec. 17,-There were five bidders on contract No. 5 of the barge canal improvement work and fifteen on contract No. 6. The engineer's estimate for contract No. 6. The engineer's estimate for contract No. 5 is \$421,252, and apparently Lindon W. Bates of New York city is the lowest bidder at \$381,937. This contract includes the Montezuria Marsh excavation. The engineer's estimates for contract No. 6, located west of Rochester, is \$1,381,662, and the lowest bidder appears to be F. A. Marselli & Co. of Pittsburg, at \$1,005,000. The lowest bids on all six pieces of work are materially lower than the engineer's estimates.

materially lower than the engineer's estimates.

As a result of to-day's bidding E. A. Bond, president of the advisory board of canal engineers, said he had no hesitation in saying that the entire canal could be built within his estimate of \$101.000,000.

"I am very much pleased with the bids on contract 6." said Mr. Bond. "The lowest bid is way below the engineer's estimate. Off hand, I should say that the low bids average from 10 to 20 per cent. below the engineer's estimate."

Mr. Bond added: "The total of the engineer's estimate on the six pleases of work is \$5,018,537, while the total of the low bids is \$4,242,620.40, being \$775,916.60 within the estimate, the percentage under the estimate being 15.48 per cent. The total of the deposits received on the bidding on all six contracts was \$2,594,594.81."

NEW VENEZUELAN CONSUL.

Arrived Unexpectedly and Promptly Replaced Senor Rincones.

Señor Carlos Benito Figueredo, the newly appointed Consul-General of Venezuela to this city, arrived on Friday, although he had not been expected until this week. He went immediately to the consulate, in Wall Street, and replaced Senor Pedro Rafael Rincones, in charge there.

These circumstances have renewed the rumor that Senor Rincones, whose brotherin-law. Dr. Baldo, is a member of the Venezuelan Cabinet, and President Castro have had a disagreement over the tying up of the gunboat Restaurador at the up of the gunboat Restaurador at the Cramp shipyards in Philadelphia. Señor Rincones did not wait for Señor Figueredo to produce his papers of appointment, but got out as soon as the new incumbent came. The Restaurador, which was George J. Gould's yaoht Atalanta, was sent to the Cramp yards about a year ago for repairs. The Venezueian engineer in charge of the work died here and then Consul-General Rincones was authorized to take charge. After \$100,000 had been paid by the Government President Castro decided that he would not pay one dollar more. The balance still due Cramp is about twice that already paid.

The Restaurador remains at Philadelphia, and it is probable that she will not go to Venezuela.

HAMERSLEY LOTS DON'T PAY. Some Are on Fifth Avenue, Some on Broadway-Estate to Sell Them. Thirteen vacant lots on Broadway, be-

tween 213th and 214th streets, and an unimproved plot on Fifth avenue, between 110th and 111th streets, the property of Katherine L. and Louis G. Hamersley, children of James Hooker Hamersley and Margaret C. Hamersley, both deceased, are to be sold by direction of the Supreme Court. The New York Life Insurance and Trust Company, as trustee of the children's estate in making the application for leave to sell the property alleges that the taxes on the lots are now so large that it is no longer profitable to retain them unim-

The Hamersley children have inherited from their parents and their grandfather, John W. Hamersley, a very large fortune, and the income of each now exceeds \$40,000 a year. They have been living in the family home, 1030 Fifth avenue, under the care of Sarah E. Lowrie, in accordance care of Sarah E. Lowrie, in accordance with their mother's testamentary injunc-tion that they should reside there until they were able to select a home for them-selves. Katherine Winthrop Kean is their legal guardian. The girl is 13 and the boy 12 years old.

BIDS FOR WARSHIPS APPROVED. New York Shipbuilding Co. Gets Contract for the Battleship New Hampshire.

WARRINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Secretary of the Navy Morton to-day approved the recommendations of the Board of Construction for the acceptance of the bids of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company for the crusers Montana and North Carolina, and the bid of the New York Shipbuilding Company for the battleship New Hampshire. Accordingly, the contracts will be let to these firms. The cruisers will cost \$3.575. 000 each and are to be completed within thirty-six months from the date of the contract. The battleship is to cost \$3,748,-000 and to be completed in thirty-eight months. The total cost of the three vessels is \$10,893,000.

THE POSTAL GRAFT CASES. Machen, Lerenz and the Groffs Will Appeal to the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Machen, Lorenz and the two Groffs, who were convicted in the District Court of conspiracy to defraud the Government in the purchase of postal supplies and whose sentences of two years imprisonment and fines of \$10,000 each were recently affirmed by the District Court of Appeals, will carry an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. Their attorneys have decided to apply to the latter court for a writ of certiorari to review the case.

Natives of Morocco Ordered to Be Deportec.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- By order of the Secretary of the Department of Com-merce, a warrant has been issued for the deportation of Sheerif Rachea Ben Gelul, deportation of Sheerif Rachea Ben Gelui, Sol Cohen, Elias Bemmergi Lucille Berugil. Rachel Banjayon, Sol Banjayon and Gentile Benobeni, all native Moroccans, who came to this country to attend the St. Louis fair. The party is stranded in St. Louis fair. The party is stranded in St. Louis fair. They will be deported at the expense of the steamship company which brought them here.